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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/758,798	01/11/2001	Robert C. Frisch	0102323-00062	9352
21125	7590	05/13/2004	EXAMINER	
NUTTER MCCLENNEN & FISH LLP WORLD TRADE CENTER WEST 155 SEAPORT BOULEVARD BOSTON, MA 02210-2604			NGUYEN, BRIAN D	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		2661		
DATE MAILED: 05/13/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/758,798	FRISCH ET AL.
Examiner	Brian D Nguyen	Art Unit 2661

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Statyus

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on *the application filed 1/11/01*.
2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-11 and 14-17 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 12 and 13 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5.
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. Page 7, line 32, "Figure 9 illustrates" should change to ---Figures 9A and 9B illustrate---

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 10-13 and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 10 recites the limitation "the sending node" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 11 recites the limitation "the sending node" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 12 recites the limitation "the sending node" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 16 recites the limitation "the sending node" in line 8. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 17, line 7, "the link" seems to refer back to "the first link" in line 2. If this is true, it is suggested to change "the link" to ---the first link---.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

5. Claims 1-8, 10-11, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Garcia et al (6,545,981).

Regarding claim 1, Garcia discloses a digital data system comprising a link that carries message packets, a first node sending a plurality of message packets to a second node on the link (see figure 4), the second node returning a control symbol (ACK, NACK) to the first node for each packet received on the link (see figure 8), and the first node responding to the control symbol to control the further transmission of message packets to the second node over the link (see col. 2, lines 15-24).

Regarding claim 2, Garcia discloses the first node sends the plurality of message packets to the second node as a sequence (see col. 7, lines 30-32).

Regarding claim 3, Garcia discloses the first node sends each of the message packets with a sequence identifier (sequence number) and the second node returns a control symbol with the sequence identifier of a received message packet (see figure 8; col. 2, lines 15-24).

Regarding claim 4, Garcia discloses the second node returns a packet not-accepted control symbol to the first node indicating receipt on the link of a message packet that is out of sequence (see col. 7, lines 19-32).

Regarding claim 5, Garcia discloses the first node responds to a packet-not-accepted control symbol by re-sending a portion of the sequence of message packets (see col. 2, lines 15-17).

Regarding claim 6, Garcia discloses the first node queries the second node for an identifier of a message packet in the sequence with which to begin re-sending (see col. 2, lines 15-24).

Regarding claim 7, Garcia discloses a digital data system comprising a link that carries message packets, a first node sending a plurality of message packets to a second node on the link (see figure 4), the second node returning a control symbol to the first node for each packet received on the link (see figure 8), the control symbol indicating a packet error, and the first node responding to the control symbol to control the further transmission of message packets to the second node over the link (see col. 2, lines 15-24; col. 7, lines 19-32; col. 6, lines 11-26).

Regarding claim 8, Garcia discloses the control symbol specifies identity of a received packet having an error condition (see col. 2, lines 15-24; col. 7, lines 19-32; col. 6, lines 11-26; col. 7, lines 19-32).

Regarding claim 10, Garcia discloses the sending node transmits a message packet comprising a header portion and a data portion, at least said data portion including an error code (CRC), and wherein the second node applies said error code to detect the packet error (see col. 5, lines 31-40).

Regarding claim 11, Garcia discloses the sending node transmits a message packet comprising a header portion followed by a data portion, and the second node inspects at least a portion (sequence number) of the header portion to detect a first error condition, passing a symbol over the link to the first node to initiate retransmission when it detects the first error condition (see col. 7, lines 19-32).

Regarding claim 16, Garcia discloses a digital data system comprising first and second nodes connected by a first link, the first node sending a data from a buffer as a transmission sequence of one or more messages to the second node over the first link (see figure 4), each message including a sequence identifier (sequence number) in an initial portion (header) of the message the second node checking the initial portion to identify a faulty message reception and communicating said sequence identifier to the first node with a symbol indicating whether reception was proper such that the sending node may respond to the symbol by clearing (implicitly disclosed) the buffer or retransmitting at least a portion of the transmission sequence (see figures 4 & 8; col. 7, lines 19-32).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 2661

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garcia et al (6,545,981) in view of Passint et al (5,581,705).

Regarding claim 9, Garcia does not specifically disclose the control symbol identifies the type of packet error. However, identifying the type of packet error is well known in the art, Passint discloses identifies the type of packet error (see col. 12, lines 46-53; col. 14, lines 47-57). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to identify the type of packet error as taught by Passint in the system of Garcia in order to correct the error accordingly.

8. Claim 14-15 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garcia et al (6,545,981) in view of Wiklund (6,452,926).

Regarding claims 14-15, Garcia discloses a digital data system comprising first and second nodes connected by a first link (see figure 4), the first node sending a plurality of message packets to the second node over the first link, each message packet including an error code (CRC), the second node checking the error code, wherein the message packet includes a header portion and further portion (data portion), at least a part (sequence number part) of the header portion being a changeable part that may change as the message packet passes from the first link to the further link, and at least a part of the message packet being an invariant part that does not change whereby the error code (CRC) need not be recalculated when the message packet passes to the further link; wherein the changeable part includes a sequence identifier (sequence number), and the second node compares the changeable part of a message packet with

an expected sequence identifier to detect an error (see figures 4 & 8; col. 2, lines 15-24; col. 5, lines 32-40; col. 7, lines 19-32). Garcia does not specifically disclose a valid message is sent to a further node over a further link. However, it is well known that an intermediate node will forward a valid message to the message's destination. Wiklund discloses forwarding valid message to the further node (QSE) (see col. 5, lines 22-40). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to forward the valid message to the further node as taught by Wiklund in the system of Garcia in order to for the message to reach its destination.

Regarding claim 17, Garcia discloses a digital data system comprising first and second nodes connected by a first link, the first node sending a plurality of message packets to the second node over the first link, the second node returning a control symbol to the first node for each packet received therefrom the link, the first node responding to control symbol to control the further transmission of message packets to the second node over the link, such that transmission of data packets from the first node to the further node proceeds efficiently (see figures 4 & 8; col. 2, lines 15-24; col. 5, lines 32-40; col. 7, lines 19-32). Garcia does not specifically disclose the message is sent to a further node over a further link. However, it is well known that an intermediate node will forward the message to the message's destination. Wiklund discloses forwarding a message to the further node (QSE) (see col. 5, lines 22-40). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to forward the message to the further node as taught by Wiklund in the system of Garcia in order to for the message to reach its destination.

Allowable Subject Matter

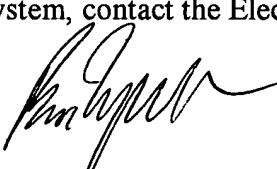
9. Claims 12 and 13 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian D Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-5133. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-6:00 Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doug Olms can be reached on (703) 305-4703. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Brian Nguyen
5/10/04